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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,420	01/10/2002	Kathrin Berkner	74451.P138	1066

7590 08/08/2005

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
Seventh Floor
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026

EXAMINER

HUNG, YUBIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/044,420

Applicant(s)

BERKNER ET AL.

Examiner

Yubin Hung

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 37-53 and 92-96 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-36 and 54-91 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 92-94 and 96 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 37-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 95 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/27/03.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I (claims 1-9, 37-53 and 92-96) in the reply filed on January 28, 2005 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 10-36 and 54-91 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to nonelected inventions (corresponding to Groups II and III), there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on January 28, 2005.
3. In view of applicant's amendment, the objection to the specification in the office action mailed 01/11/2003 has been withdrawn.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - P. 15, line 3: per line 4, "image" should have been "entropy distribution"
 - P.22, line 3: per lines 1-5, "M x N" should have been the number of blocks, not the block size
 - P. 23, equation 11: the subscripts of r (gamma) and B on the right-hand side should have been "l" (lower-case L), not "1" (numeral one)

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 95 is objected to because of the following informalities:
- Claim 95, line 2: "non-lossy " should have been "lossy" (since claim 96 is directed to "lossless." **[Note: for examination purpose, "non-lossy" in claim 95 will be interpreted as "lossy"]**)

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Queiroz et al. ("Fast Segmentation of the JPEG Compressed Documents," *Journal of Electronic Imaging*, Vol. 7(2), April 1998, pp. 367-377, submitted as part of the IDS), further in view of APA1 (admitted prior art, see Table 1 on page 14 of the specification).

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8. Regarding claim 1, and similarly claims 4 and 7, Queiroz discloses

- generating a granular entropy distribution; and applying one or more image processing operations based on the granular entropy distribution [P. 370, Sect. 3, 1st and 2nd paragraphs; P. 371, Sect. 4, 1st paragraph]

Queiroz does not expressly disclose that the entropy distribution is generated using information obtained from a header of a compressed bit stream.

However, APA1 discloses that the required granular entropy distribution (e.g., the length of coded data) is readily available in the header of a JPEG 2000-compressed bit stream.

Queiroz and APA1 are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image compression/decompression.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Queiroz with the teachings of APA1 by extracting granular entropy distribution from the header of a compressed bit stream. The motivation would have been to lower the computation cost, since the information is readily available.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine APA1 with Queiroz to obtain the invention of claim 1.

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9. Regarding claim 3, and similarly claims 6 and 9, further note that the image processing operation disclosed in Queiroz (per the analysis for claim 1) is segmentation and segmentation resulted in the labeling of different regions. (See also Queiroz, Sects. 4.1 through 4.1.4 of pp. 372-373, where clearly the result of the segmentation is the classification of image portions into background, text and graphics, etc.) Moreover, only information from the header is needed.

10. Claims 2, 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Queiroz et al. ("Fast Segmentation of the JPEG Compressed Documents," *Journal of Electronic Imaging*, Vol. 7(2), April 1998, pp. 367-377) and APA1 (admitted prior art, see Table 1 on page 14 of the specification) as applied to claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 above, and further in view of Jändel et al. (WO 00/01153, submitted as part of the IDS).

11. Regarding claim 2, and similarly claims 5 and 8, the combined invention of Queiroz and APA1 discloses all limitations of its parent, claim 1.

The combined invention of Queiroz and APA1 does not expressly disclose

- decoding only a portion of coded data in the compressed bit stream as part of applying the one or more image processing operations

However, Jändel discloses decoding only portions of coded data (regions of interest, the regions being the result of segmentation). [See the abstract, especially the last three lines.]

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The combined invention of Queiroz and APA1 and Jändel are combinable because they both have aspects that are from the same field of endeavor of Compression/decompression.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combined invention of Queiroz and APA1 with the teachings of Jändel by decoding only a portion of the coded data. The motivation would, again, have been to lower the computation cost, since no computation resource need to be spent on the portions of data that are not of interest.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Jändel with Queiroz and APA1 to obtain the invention of claim 2.

12. Claims 37-44, and similarly claims 45-53, are similarly rejected as per the analysis of claim 2 above:

- Claim 37. receiving header information corresponding to a bit stream of multi-scale transform-based compressed data representing image data;
generating a feature vector corresponding to image description bits in the bit stream from the header information; and
performing one or more operations on at least a portion of the bit stream based on the feature vector
[Per the analysis of claim 2. Note that the segmentation masks (e.g., Figs. 12-14 of Queiroz) obtained using the ECM (see the first paragraph of section 3 of Queiroz) are considered a feature vector. Note further that JPEG 2000 is a multi-scale, transform-based compression scheme]
- Claim 38. the method defined in Claim 37 further comprising
generating a distribution of the number of zero bit planes in one or more portions of compressed data, the distribution derived from the heading information

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- [Note that APA1 further discloses that the JPEG 2000 header contains the number of zero bit planes]
- Claim 39. the method defined in Claim 37 further comprising generating an entropy distribution based on the header information
[Per the analysis of claim 2]
- Claim 40. the method defined in Claim 39 wherein the entropy distribution is granular
[Note that per APA1, since the entropy information is for a code block, it is granular]
- Claim 41. the method defined in Claim 39 wherein the entropy distribution comprises a map of bit distribution for the image data
[Note that the ECM (see the first paragraph of section 3 of Queiroz) is a map of bit distribution]
- Claim 42. the method defined in Claim 39 wherein the entropy distribution is a length of coded data for code blocks
[Per APA1]
- Claim 43. the method defined in Claim 37 wherein the header information is part of a JPEG 2000 file
[Per APA1]
- Claim 44. the method defined in Claim 37 wherein one of the one or more operations comprises classification
[Per the analysis of claim 2]

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claims 92-4 and 96 are allowed; claim 95 would have been allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection above.

14. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

15. Regarding independent claim 92, closest art of record *International Standard ISO/IEC 15444-1 (First edition, Dec. 15, 2000)* on JPEG 2000 core coding system discloses a method for determining bit allocation (a kind of

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entropy distribution) given a bit rate [Sect. J.14.3, pp. 215-216] and Florencio (US 6,775,325) discloses a method for changing bit rate without completely decompressing the corresponding bit stream (by partially decompressing to obtain the transform coefficients and then re-quantizing the coefficients to achieve the desire new bit rate—see the abstract and Figs. 4-6). However, neither discloses nor teaches/suggests estimating a new entropy distribution corresponding to a lower bit rate from that of a higher bit rate.

Conclusion and Contact Information

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. They include

- Acharya et al. (US 6,813,384) – discloses a wavelet-indexing method that store information in the header to facilitate locating of image portions
- Lan et al. (US PGPUB 2002/0154227) – discloses a header-based processing method for load balancing
- Koide (US PGPUB 2003/0099404) – discloses a method that creates both JPEG 2000-compressed and JPEG-compressed images with information stored in the header for proper decompression of either
- Shapiro (US 5,563,960) – discloses a compression method that allocates more bits to selected regions at the expense of other regions of an image

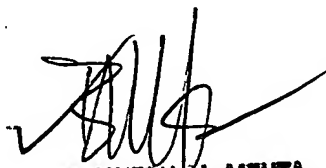
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17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yubin Hung whose telephone number is (571) 272-7451. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Yubin Hung
Patent Examiner
July 29, 2005


BHAVESH M. MEHTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600